II. *An Obſervation of a* Spina bifida, *commonly ſo termed; by Mr.* George Aylett, *Surgeon at* Windſor.

September 30. 1740.

Read Feb. 2. 1743-4.

THERE appeared, covering the lower Part of the Loins of a luſty Infant juſt born, a large incyſted Tumour, that ſeemed capable of containing a Pint of Water, whoſe Contents had eſcaped in the Birth from a ſmall Perforation in the Middle of the Cyſt; from whence, on Preſſure, iſſued out a bloody Serum.

Flannels, wrung out of an hot, diſcutient, and reſtringent Fomentation with Spirits, were twice a Day applied, to prevent its mortifying; to which the upper Part ſeemed greatly tending.

The firſt Four Days there appeared no viſible Alteration in the Child's Health: She ſucked well; was as hearty and ſtrong as moſt at that Age are; no Paralyſis in the Extremities, but a daily Diſcharge from the Perforation of nigh Two Ounces of the ſame bloody Serum which at firſt iſſued out. The Nurſe had obſerved, that, during all this time, it had not made one Drop of Water.

The Fifth Day the Child was convulſed; which increaſing, ſhe died in the Night following.

On the Diviſion of the Cyſt, next Day, there appeared a thin membranous Subſtance, lining it internally; and might be an Expanſion of the Membrane which inveloges the *Medulla ſpinalis*. A Number of ſmall Blood-veſſels appeared about the Perforation

The Royal Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to *Philosophical Transactions (1683-1775)*. www.jstor.org

of the Bone; and, underneath a ſmall Portion of the *Medulla* of a very thin Conſiſtence. There was no Opportunity of making a further Examination, thro' the Mother's Importunities: But the lumbal *Vertebræ* and *Os ſacrum* were taken out, as appears in the Figure annexed.

TAB. I. *Fig.* 1. by *C. M.*

A B, The *Vertebræ* of the Loins.

B C, The *Os ſacrum.*

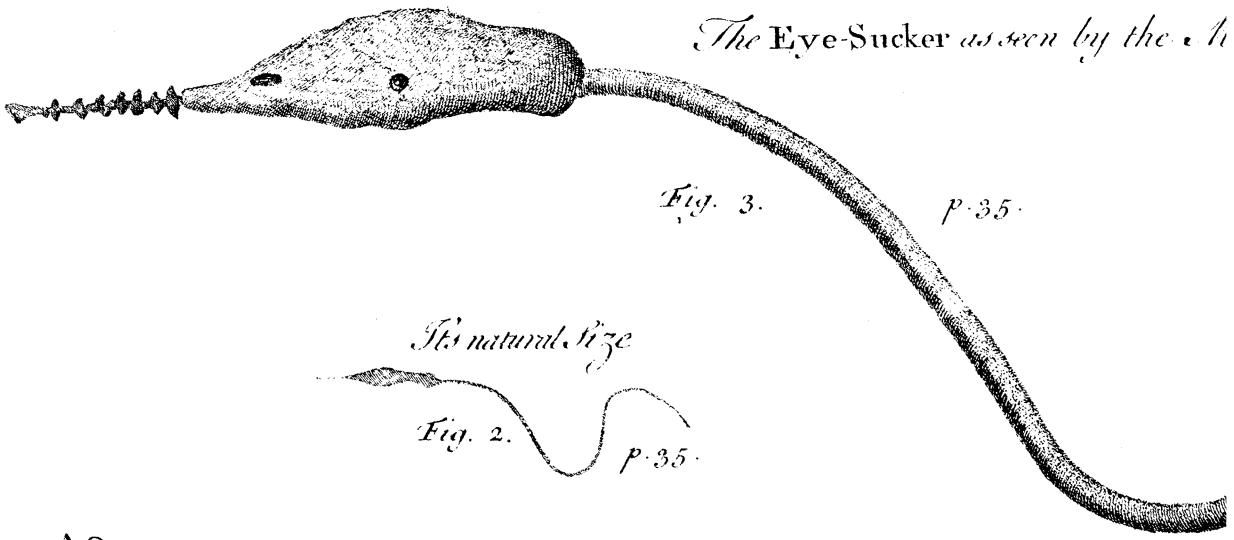
C D, The *Oſſa Coccygis.*

E F, The *ſpinal* Proceſſes of the *Vertebræ* of the Loins; which Spines are here diſcontinued, and an Opening formed,

F G H I, quite into the Canal of the *Vertebræ*; ſo that the *Medulla ſpinalis* was intirely laid bare without any bony Covering. This Opening has been miſtaken for a Parting of the ſpinal Proceſſes into Two Rows; or as if at *F* they had divided into Two Branches; the Two Edges *F* and *G* feeling thro' the Integuments like a Bifurcation of the Spine, and ſo have given Riſe to the Notion of a *Spina bifida*; which Caſe I doubt whether it ever exiſts: For a perfect *Spina bifida* muſt ſuppoſe the very Canal and *Medulla ſpinalis* to divide into Two Branches, the Bodies of the *Vertebræ* to become near twice as wide as uſual, and the ſpinal Proceſſes to divaricate into Two Rows or Ridges of Spines. *C. M.*

Dr. *Rutty*, late *Secr. R. S.* has communicated a Caſe like this. *See theſe Tranſact.* n. 366. p. 98.

Philos. Trans. N°472. TAB. I.



The Eye-Sucker *as seen by the*

Fig. 3. p. 35.

It's natural Size

Fig. 2. p. 35.

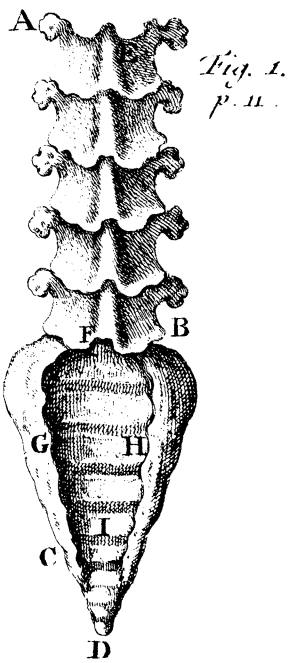


Fig. 1. p. 11.

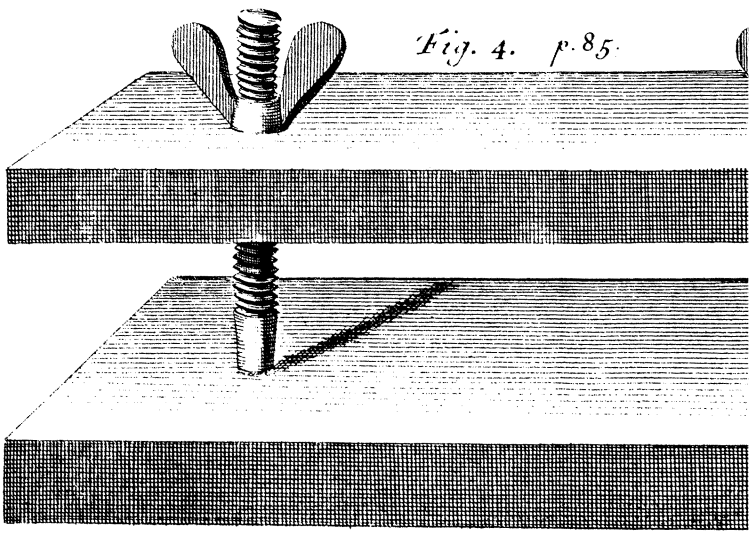
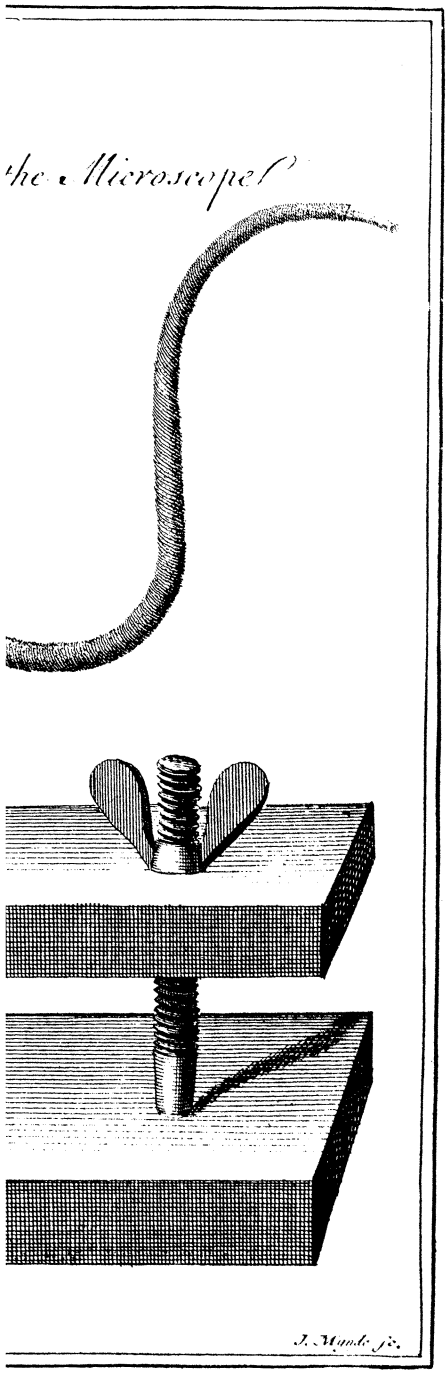


Fig. 4. p. 85.


the Microscope
J. Mynde fc.

The Eye-Sucker *as seen by the Microscope*

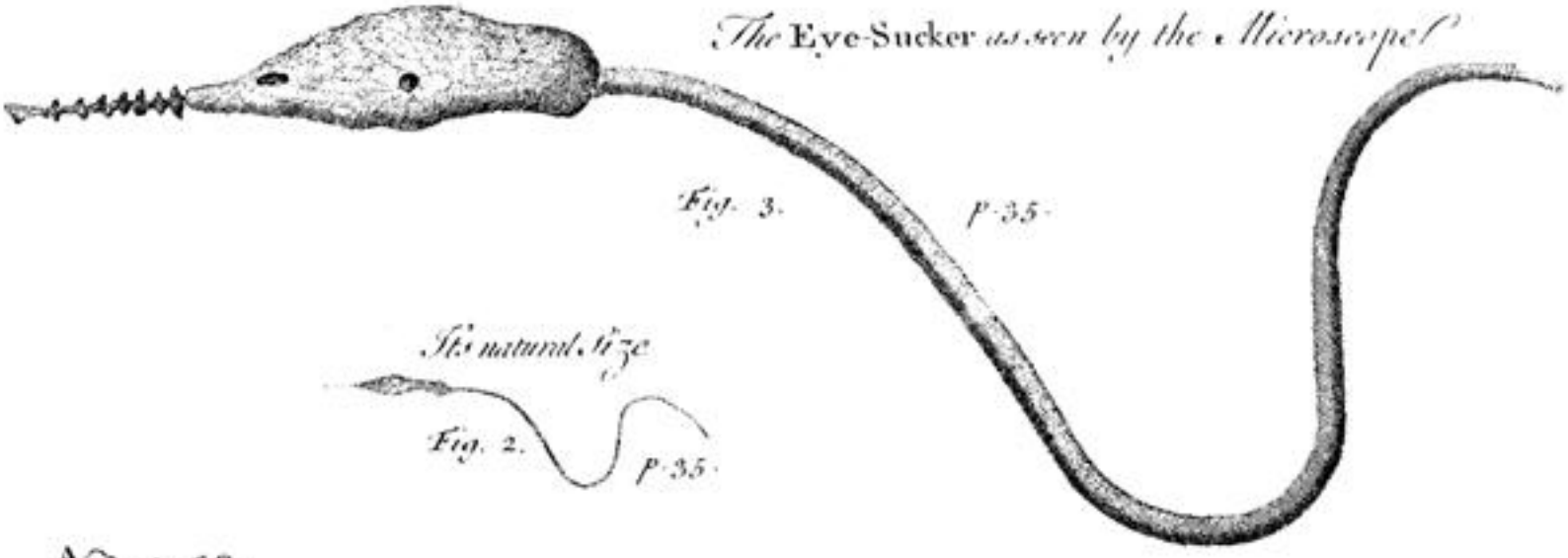


Fig. 3. p. 35.

Its natural Size

Fig. 2. p. 35.

Fig. 1. p. 11.

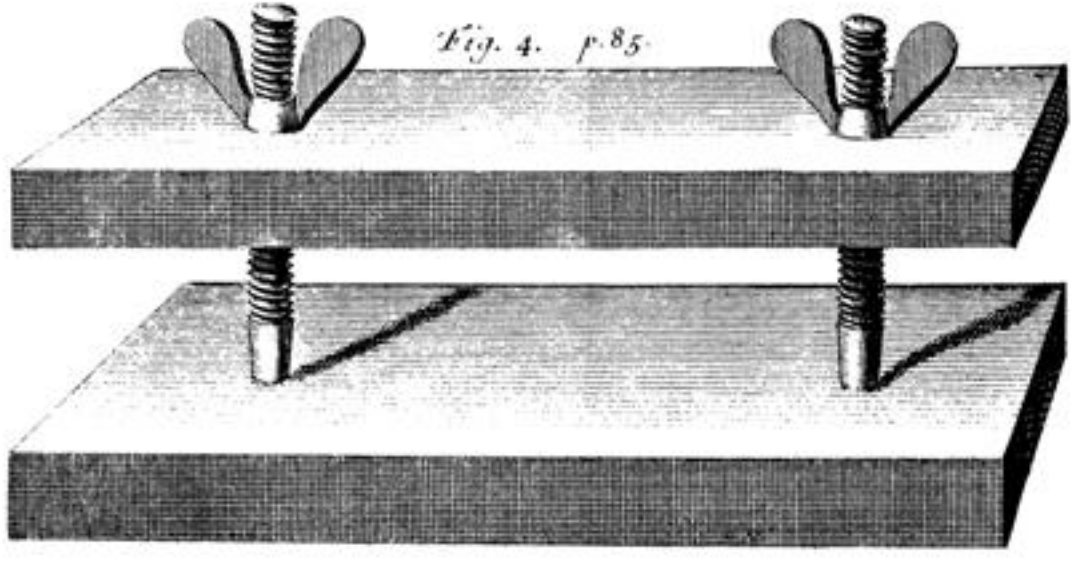



Fig. 4. p. 85.